Bogies on MG rail lines

2476. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic conditions of Rail bogies used on meter-gauge rail lines;

(b) whether Government would come forward to replace the existing bogies, by the new ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As a result of progress of gauge conversion, some meter-gauge sections have got locked up temporarily due to which some overaged coaches had to be continued in service duly ensuring complete safety. This has affected the condition of coaches to some extent, but corrective action has been taken by manufacturing new coaches and arranging support of overhauling workshops in locked up sections by transhipping the coaches.

(b) and (c) Railways have recommenced production of meter gauge Coaches *w.e.f.* the year 2000-01 and total 267 nos. MG coaches have been introduced from April 2000 to Oct'2002. Such need based production of MG coaches shall be continued.

(d) Does not arise.

BG lines in Tamil Nadu

2477. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of rail tracks of Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu, likely to be converted during this fiscal year;

(b) the total area which would be operational as BG in that State;

(c) by when the tracks in the State would be completely converted into broad-gauge; and